

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MELBOU 00806 111007Z

12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 TAR-02 AGR-20

DRC-01 /174 W

----- 083386

R 110415Z JUL 74

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2243

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL BRISBANE BY POUCH

AMCONSUL PERTH BY POUCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MELBOURNE 0806

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AS

SUBJECT: VICTORIAN LIBERAL SPOKESMAN INDICATES POSSIBLE
SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

1. THE MINISTER FOR LABOR AND INDUSTRY OF THE LIBERAL
VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT, MR. JOSEPH A. RAFFERTY, IN A
KEYNOTE SPEECH BEFORE THE METAL TRADES ASSOCIATION'S
ANNUAL DINNER HIGHLIGHTED A PROTECTIONIST SENTIMENT WHICH
HAD THE NEAR 500 ATTENDEES APPLAUDING VIGOROUSLY. MR.
RAFFERTY'S CRITICISM OF THE LABOR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S LOW
TARIFFS WHICH BROUGHT IN AN "EVER INCREASING FLOOD OF CHEAP
IMPORTS" TOUCHED A SOFT SPOT IN HIS LISTENERS' HEARTS.
MUCH OF RAFFERTY'S SPEECH WAS AN OPPOSITION SPOKESMAN'S
POLITICAL LAMBASTING OF THE LABOR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND
ITS INABILITY TO CONTROL INFLATION.

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2. COMMENT: THIS PROTECTIONIST THEME ENUNCIATED BY

MINISTER RAFFERTY, COUPLED WITH ONE OF THE PLANKS IN THE
LIBERAL PARTY'S PLATFORM DURING THE LAST FEDERAL ELECTION TO
DEVALUE THE AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR, PROVOKES ONE TO THINK THAT WE
MAY SEE A MAJOR LIBERAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE LABOR
GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF LOWERING AUSTRALIAN TARIFFS.
THUS, AS FAR AS THE US TRADE PICTURE IS CONCERNED,
OUR EXPORTS TO AUSTRALIA WOULD STAND A BETTER CHANCE
OF REMAINING HIGH WITH THE LABOR GOVERNMENT'S TARIFF
CUTTING POLICY THAN WITH THE OPPOSITION LIBERAL PARTY
RETURNING PROTECTIONISM. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, IN
THE FACE OF CONTINUED INFLATION, FISCAL PRESSURES AND
MOUNTING UNEMPLOYMENT, WHETHER THE LABOR PARTY WILL BE
ABLE TO RESIST RESORTING TO PROTECTIONISM AS WELL.
BRAND

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: PINT, AS, US, (RAFFERTY, JOSEPH A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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